NOTICE OF DECISION UNDER REGULATION 32
FILM POSTERS

VIDEO CASSETTE CASE

TO: The Film and Video Labelling Body Inc.
PO Box 2627
Ponsonby
Auckland

Pursuant to regulation 32 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Regulations 1994 the film poster entitled:

Private Film The Tower

is **Not Approved.**

if approval refused, the reasons for the decision:

The video cassette case contains several images of explicit sexual activity. This includes close-up images of the genitals of the participants during sexual intercourse such simultaneous vaginal and anal intercourse and a woman's face being covered in semen as men ejaculate. The concentrated focus on the genitals of the participants and explicit depictions of sexual activity significantly degrade and dehumanise women particularly, as they are reduced to body parts for the purpose of male sexual gratification. This degrading and dehumanising effect is reinforced by text which describes women in terms of their body parts and sexual availability. There is also concern that the video cassette case describes sexual violence in a manner to advertise an associated video recording and locates the text involved amongst other text and images which are sexually explicit in nature and intended to arouse the reader.

The Classification Office is of the view that the manner in which the video cassette case degrades and dehumanises women and presents sexual violence in a sexual arousing context means that, if the poster were submitted to the Classification Office under s13(1) of the Films, Videos and Publications Classification Act 1993 it would be classified as objectionable.

The New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 has been considered in classifying the video cassette case. The Classification Office is of the opinion that the classification of the video cassette case is a justifiable limit on the freedom of expression that is prescribed by law given the strong manner in which women are degraded and dehumanised and the way sexual violence is presented in a sexually arousing context and is used to advertise the associated video recording.

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Date: 21 August 1998

For the Classification Office (signed):

OFLC Ref: 9800659